

## **Arguments “Against” Proposition 311**

Please vote no on Proposition 311. This ballot measure mistakenly shifts away some of the solemn responsibility we owe to fallen first responders by mandating that convicted criminals pay into a death benefit fund. The families of first responders killed while working on our behalf should not rely on the criminal class to help meet their financial needs. The legislature should fund the full death benefit directly in the state budget as a sign of gratitude to those who risk enduring the ultimate sacrifice. Establishing a line item in the budget to fully fund death benefits for first responders is just the right thing to do. Making matters worse, Proposition 311 has legislative language that allows the collected funds to be diverted to other uses under certain circumstances. The political class has demonstrated far too frequently that they can make a million good-sounding reasons why such monies should be redirected to some new urgent issue. Hopefully, a high visibility budget line item might prevent such unscrupulous financial diversions. Asking the families of fallen first responders to accept money from criminals is embarrassing. Reject this ballot measure and let's tell the legislature to do better.

**Kurt Neumann, Pima County, Tucson**